Whole English-language Translation of Japanese Patent Application Laid-open No. Sho 61-236681

SPECIFICATION

1. TITLE OF THE INVENTION

METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING SINGLE CRYSTAL AND APPARATUS THEREFORE

2. SCOPE OF CLAIM FOR A PATENT

1) A method for manufacturing a single crystal, the method comprising the steps of:

heating a crucible charged with a seed crystal and a small amount of a solid crystal material while continuously changing a relative positional relationship between said crucible and a heating electric furnace; and

continuously feeding the solid crystal material to a single crystal melted and solidified in said crucible so as to manufacture the single crystal from the melted liquid:

wherein the solid crystal material is uniformly fed along a wall of said crucible into the melted liquid.

2) A method for manufacturing a single crystal as claimed in claim 1, wherein a cone-shaped material passing

tool is used.

- 3) A method for manufacturing a single crystal as claimed in claim 2, wherein an angle θ between a vertical line and a generating line of said cone-shaped tool satisfies that $0^{\circ} < \theta \le 45^{\circ}$.
- 4) An apparatus for manufacturing a single crystal comprising:

a crucible moving vertically in a cylindrical heating furnace;

a feeding mechanism for feeding a material to said crucible; and

a material passing tool having a rotating mechanism for uniformly dropping the material along an inner wall of said crucible.

5) An apparatus for manufacturing a single crystal as claimed in claim 4, wherein said material passing tool is composed of one or more cones which are provided concentrically about a rotation axis of said rotating mechanism.

3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

(A) Field of Industrial Application

The present invention relates to a method for manufacturing an elongate single crystal from a melted

liquid while continuously feeding a solid crystal material to a crucible charged with a seed crystal and the solid crystal material.

(B) Prior Art

As the above method for manufacturing a single crystal by using an apparatus for manufacturing a single crystal, the Bridgman technique is well known. When an elongate and large single crystal is manufactured by this technique, an long and large crucible is used, and a single crystal is grown while a solid crystal material is continuously fed to the crucible from above at a given rate per unit time.

Specifically, the solid crystal material charged into part of the crucible is melted, and the crucible is moved downward in a heating furnace having a predetermined temperature distribution, thereby growing a crystal from a crystal generated in a bottom of the crucible. On the other hand, the single crystal is manufactured by feeding, to the crucible from above through a pipe, the solid crystal material such as a powdery material, a granular material, and a pellet-like material in accordance with the growth of the crystal.

(C) Problems to Be Solved by the Invention

As set forth above, while the solid crystal material

is continuously added to the crucible at the given rate per unit time, the solid crystal material is melted so as to manufacture the long and large single crystal. However, when the material is fed for a long time, the pipe tends to become clogged because of evaporation of the melted material and rising air caused by thermal convection etc., thus making it impossible to continuously feed the material. In addition, while the solid crystal material is melted, Therefore, a temperature crvstal is grown. disturbance on a melted liquid surface becomes large. This disturbance facilitates a reaction between the melted liquid and a material for the crucible. When the phenomenon becomes serious, this phenomenon causes the crucible to rupture.

The present invention is directed to providing, at low cost, an apparatus for manufacturing an elongate and large high-quality single crystal which is free of impurities.

(D) Means for Solving the Problems

According to the present invention, a solid crystal material charged into part of a crucible is melted, and the crucible is moved downward in a heating furnace having a predetermined temperature distribution, thereby growing a crystal from a crystal generated in a bottom of the

crucible. In addition, the solid crystal material is caused to collide with a wall of the crucible several times by causing the solid crystal material to collide with an impeder once when feeding, to the crucible from above, the solid crystal material such as a powdery material, a granular material, and a pellet-like material in accordance with the growth of the crystal. In this manner, the solid crystal material is fed along the wall of the crucible, and the material remains in the space for a long time so that the solid crystal material is melted into the melted liquid during transfer.

(E) Effects

According to a conventional method in which a feeding pipe is provided at a center portion, cool air enters through the pipe, and the temperature disturbance on the melted liquid surface tends to occur because of the convection of the melted liquid and thermal dissipation. According to the method of the present invention, since the melted liquid is substantially capped, effects of cool air entering through the pipe are reduced. In addition, the solid crystal material thus fed does not tend to concentrate on a partial portion. When the impeder is rotated, the solid crystal material falls down the wall of the crucible, and is circumferentially uniformly

dispersed and fed, thereby reducing the temperature disturbance on the melted liquid surface, and curbing the reaction between the melted liquid and the material for the crucible. Since the effects of the evaporation of the melted material and the rising air caused by the thermal convection can be avoided, continuous feeding of the material is further ensured. As a result, it becomes possible to obtain a method for manufacturing an elongate and large high-quality single crystal which is free of impurities.

(F) Embodiment

Before an embodiment of the present invention is described, a conventional apparatus for manufacturing a single crystal will be described below with reference to Fig. 1.

In the figure, reference numeral 1 denotes a heating furnace. This heating furnace 1 has a temperature distribution in which a temperature is at maximum at a center portion in a vertical direction in the furnace, and in which the temperature becomes lower as the position becomes more distant from the center portion in the vertical direction. At the maximum temperature of the heating furnace 1, the solid crystal material can be melted into liquid.

In Fig. 1, a crucible 2 is charged with a melted liquid

4. A single crystal 3 is being grown by moving downward
the crucible 2 at a predetermined speed in the heating
furnace 1 having the above temperature distribution.
Reference numeral 5 denotes a crucible supporting tool,
and reference numeral 6 denotes a crucible moving mechanism.
In this regard, the solid crystal material 10 such as a
powdery material, a granular material, and a pellet-like
material is continuously fed into the crucible 2 by a
material feeding mechanism 8 via a feeding pipe 9 at a given
rate per unit time in accordance with a growth speed of
the single crystal 3.

According to the present invention, as shown in Fig. 2, there are provided cone-shaped material passing tools 11, 12 having rotating mechanisms.

An embodiment of the present invention will be described below by describing growth of a Mn-Zn ferrite single crystal which is used as a magnetic material for a magnetic head etc., by way of example.

First, a case that a ferrite single crystal is grown by a conventional method will be described. According to this method, when a material is fed for a long time (100 hours or more), the material feeding pipe is often clogged because of evaporation of the melted material and rising

air caused by the thermal convection, thus making it impossible to continuously feeding the material. A substantial amount of the material for the crucible is detected from the obtained crystal. This is because the crystal is grown while the solid crystal material is melted, thus causing a large temperature disturbance on the melted liquid surface, and facilitating the reaction between the melted liquid and the material for the crucible.

Next, according to the embodiment of the present invention, when a single crystal is grown from e.g. a melted Mn-Zn ferrite material, the feeding pipe 9 is provided so that an upper portion of the heating furnace 1 (a tip end of the pipe) is at 1000 °C or less. The fed solid crystal material first collides with the material passing tool 11, and collides with an inner wall of the crucible, thereafter repeating the collision with the material passing tool 11 and the collision with the inner wall of the crucible. After repeating the collision with the material passing tool 12 and the collision with the inner wall of the crucible, the solid crystal material uniformly drops on a surface of the melted liquid 4, and melts. Since the material passing tool 12 has a rotating mechanism 14, the melted material reaches the inner wall of the crucible because of centrifugal force. The melted material is

circumferentially uniformly fed from the inner wall of the crucible. The material passing tool 12 near the melted liquid surface has a shape covering the melted liquid, thus reducing the effects of entrance of cool air. In addition, when the material passing tool 12 is rotated, the solid crystal material is circumferentially uniformly fed as the melted liquid along the wall of the crucible, thus reducing the temperature disturbance on the melted liquid surface, and curbing the reaction between the melted liquid and the material for the crucible.

In addition, as shown in Fig. 3, an angle θ between a vertical line and a generating line of the material passing tool 12 satisfies that $0^{\circ} < \theta \le 45^{\circ}$ because a possibility that the solid crystal material is fed as the melted liquid is increased by increasing the number of collisions with the material passing tool 12 and the inner wall of the crucible. In addition, since the effects of the evaporation of the melted material and the rising air caused by the thermal convection can be avoided, continuous feeding of the material is ensured.

(G) Advantageous Results of the Invention

As set forth above, according to the present invention, the crucible charged with a seed crystal and a small amount of the solid crystal material is heated while

a relative positional relationship between the crucible and the heating electric furnace is continuously changed. The solid crystal material is continuously fed along the wall of the crucible into the single crystal melted and solidified in the crucible so as to grow the single crystal from the melted liquid. As a result, it becomes possible to provide an apparatus for manufacturing an elongate and large high-quality single crystal, and to manufacture, at low cost, an elongate and large high-quality single crystal which is free of impurities.

4. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 shows an apparatus for manufacturing a single crystal according to a conventional method.

Fig. 2 is a cross-sectional view showing an apparatus for manufacturing a single crystal according to one embodiment of the present invention under a different condition.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged view of a material passing tool 12.

In the drawings, reference numeral 1 denotes a heating furnace; reference numeral 2 denotes a crucible; reference numeral 3 denotes a single crystal; reference numeral 4 denotes a melted liquid; reference numeral 5

denotes a crucible supporting tool; reference numeral 6 denotes a crucible moving mechanism; reference numeral 8 denotes a material feeding mechanism; reference numeral 9 denotes a feeding pipe; reference numeral 10 denotes a crystal material; reference numerals 11, 12 denote a material passing tool; reference numeral 13 denotes an afterheater; and reference numeral 14 denotes a rotating shaft.

特開昭61-236681 Drawings

FIG. 1

1:加熱炉 HEATING FURNACE

2:るつぼ CRUCIBLE

3:単結晶 SINGLE CRYSTAL

4:融液 MELTED LIQUID

5:るつぼ支持具 CRUCIBLE SUPPORTING TOOL

6:るつぼ移動機 CRUCIBLE MOVING MECHANISM

8:原料供給機構 MATERIAL FEEDING MECHANISM

9:供給パイプ FEEDING PIPE

10:結晶原料 CRYSTAL MATERIAL

FIG. 2

10:結晶原料 CRYSTAL MATERIAL

11,12:原料伝達具 MATERIAL PASSING TOOL

13:アフターヒーター AFTERHEATER

14:回転軸 ROTATING SHAFT

FIG. 3

12:原料伝達具 MATERIAL PASSING TOOL

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単結晶の製造方法及び製造装置

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1. 発明の名称

単結晶の製造方法及び製造装置

2. 特許請求の範囲

- 1) 種結晶と少量の固体結晶原料が充填されたるつぼを加熱用の電気炉との相対的位置関係を連続して変化させて加熱し、前記るつぼ内で溶融凝固した単結晶に前記固体結晶原料を連続的に補給し融液から単結晶を製造する方法において、前記固体結晶原料がるつぼ壁を伝わって融液上に一様に補充されるととを特徴とする単結晶の製造方法。
- 2) 円すい形の原料伝達具を具備した特許請求 の範囲記載の単結晶の製造方法。
- 3) 円すい形の垂線と母線のなす角度 0 を 0° <</p>
 0 ≤ 4 5° にした特許請求の範囲第2項記載の製造方法。
- 4) 円筒状の加熱炉内を上下に移動するるつぼと該るつぼ原料を供給する供給機構と原料をるつ

個内壁に沿って一様に落下せしめる回転機構を有する原料伝達具を有することを特徴とする単結晶製造装置。

5) 原料伝達具は回転機構の回転軸に同心的に設けられた 1 個以上の円錐型である特許請求の範囲第 4 項記載の単結晶製造装置。

3. 発明の詳細な説明

(イ) 産業上の利用分野

本発明は種結晶と固体結晶原料が充塡されたる つぼに固体結晶原料を連続的に補給しながら 融液 から長尺の単結晶を製造する方法に関する。

何 従来の技術

上述の如き単結晶製造装置による単結晶の作製法は、プリッジマン法として知られている。この方法で長尺の大型単結晶を作成する場合には長尺で大型のるつぼを用い、該るつぼに上方から固体結晶原料を単位時間当り一定量ずつ連続的に供給しながら単結晶を成長させる。

具体的には、るつぼの中に一部装塡した固体の

(1)

結晶原料を溶融し、所定の温度分布をもつ加熱炉内でるつぼを下方に移動させることによって、るつぼ底部で生じた結晶をもとに結晶を成長させ、他方、結晶の成長に合せて粉末状、顆粒状、あるいはペレット状等の固体結晶原料をるつぼ上方からパイプを通して供給することによって単結晶を作製する。

(4)発明が解決しようとする問題点

このように、るつぼ内に固体結晶原料を単位時間当り一定量ずつ連続的に添加しながら、原料供せて、長尺の大型単結晶を製造する際に、原料供給を長時間続けると、溶融物質の蒸発、熱対流による空気の吹きあげ等により、パイプが閉塞し、連続供給ができなくなる傾向があった。また、うしな結晶原料を溶融しながら、結晶成大きくなる。体結晶原料を溶面での温度の擾乱が大きくなる。といより、融液とるのほ材との反応が起こりやする。その現象が顕著な場合は、るつぼ材料の破断まで引き起こすのとなっている。

本発明は,長尺で大型の不純物の入らない高品 (3)

響は和らげられる。また,供給される固体結晶原料が局部的に集中する傾向がなくなる。 障害物に回転を与えれば,固体結晶原料が,るつぼ壁を伝わって,円周方向に均一に分散されて供給されるようになり,融液とるつぼ材との反応が抑制される。 谷融物質の蒸発,熱対流による空気の吹き上げの影響から回避できるので,原料の連続供給はさらに確実になる。 結果として,長尺で大型の不純物のはいらない高品質の単結晶製造方法が得られる。

() 実施例

本発明の実施例を説明するに先立ち従来の単結 晶の製造装置を第1図を参照して説明する。

図において,1は加熱炉である。この加熱炉1は炉内上下方向位置の中央部で最高温となり,該中央部から上下方向に離れるに従って温度が下がる温度分布を有している。加熱炉1の最高温部は固体の結晶原料を溶融して融液にすることができる温度である。

第1図の状態では、るつぼ2の中に触液4が入

質の単結晶製造装置を安価な値段で提供すること にある。

(4)問題点を解決するための手段

付作 用

供給パイプを中心部に設置した従来法では,パイプ内から,冷気が入りこみ,融液の対流,熱の放散により,融液面での温度の擾乱が起きやすくなる。この発明による方法では融液に実質的にふたをしているので,冷気が入りこむことによる影

(4)

っており、上述した温度分布をもった加熱炉1の中を、るつぼ2を所定の速度で下方へ移動させることによって単結晶3が成長しつつある。5はるつぼ支持具、6はるつぼ移動機構である。との際、粉末状、顆粒状あるいはペレット状の固体結晶原料10を、原料供給機構8によって、単結晶3の成長速度に合せて供給パイプ9を介してるつぼ2の中に、単位時間当り一定量ずつ連続的に供給する

本発明では,第2図に示す如く回転機構を有するが円錐型の原料伝達具11,12が設置されている。

以下,本発明の実施例を,磁気ヘッド等の磁性 材料として使用される Mn-Zn フェライト単結晶の 育成を例にとって説明する。

先ず、従来法でフェライト単結晶を育成した場合について説明する。 この方法で、原料を供給するとき、長時間(100hr以上)続けると、原料供給パイプが溶融物質の蒸発、熱対流による空気の吹き上げのために閉塞され、連続供給が不可能と

なることがしばしばあった。得られた結晶をみるとるつぼ材がかなりの量検出された。この原因は、 固体結晶原料を溶融しながら、結晶成長を行なう ことにより、融液面での温度の擾乱が大きくなる。 そのため、融液とるつぼ材との反応が起こりやす くなる。

体結晶原料を連続的に補給し融液から単結晶を製造する際に、前記固体結晶原料がるつぼ壁を伝わって補給することで結晶成長を行なり。その結果、長尺で大型の もつ 体材ない し 高品質 単結晶 製造装置を提供し、長尺で大型の不純物のはいらない高品質単結晶素材を低コストで製造することが可能となる。

(7)

4. 図面の簡単な説明

第 1 図は従来の方法による単結晶製造装置である。

第2図は本発明の一実施例による単結晶製造装置を異なる状態にて示した断面図である。

第3図は原料伝達具12を拡大した図面を示す。 図において、1は加熱炉、2はるつぼ、3は単 結晶、4は融液、5はるつぼ支持具、6はるつぼ 移動機構、8は原料供給機構、9は供給ペイプ、 10は結晶原料である。11、12は原料伝達具 13はアフターヒーター14は回転軸である。

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液面の原料伝達具12は,融液をふたした形態をとり,冷気が入ることによる影響を和らげる。また原料伝達具12に回転を加えると,固体結晶原料が,るつぼ壁を伝わって,融液として円周方向に均一に供給されるようになり,融液面での温度の援乱が小さくなる。そのため,融液とるつぼ材との反応が抑制される。

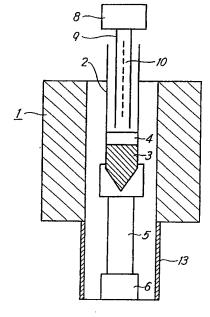
また第3図に示す如く原料伝達具12の 垂線と 母線のなす角度 0 を 0 < 0 ≤ 4 5°に規定したのは, 原料伝達具12とるつぼ内壁の衝突回数を多くす ることで固体結晶原料が,融液として供給される 確率を高めることにある。また,原料供給は,溶 融物質の蒸発,熱対流による空気の吹きあげの影 響から回避できるので,連続供給は確実なものと なる。

(ト)発明の効果

以上説明したように、本発明は、種結晶と少量の固体結晶原料が充填されたるつぼを加熱 用の電気炉との相対的位置関係を連続して変化させ加熱し、前記るつぼ内で溶融凝固した単結晶に前記固

(8)

第1図



(9)

